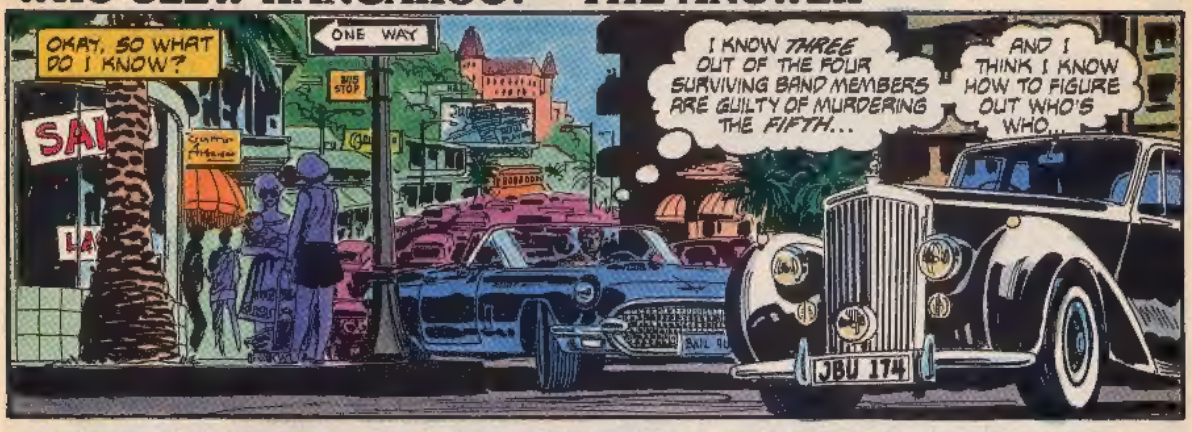
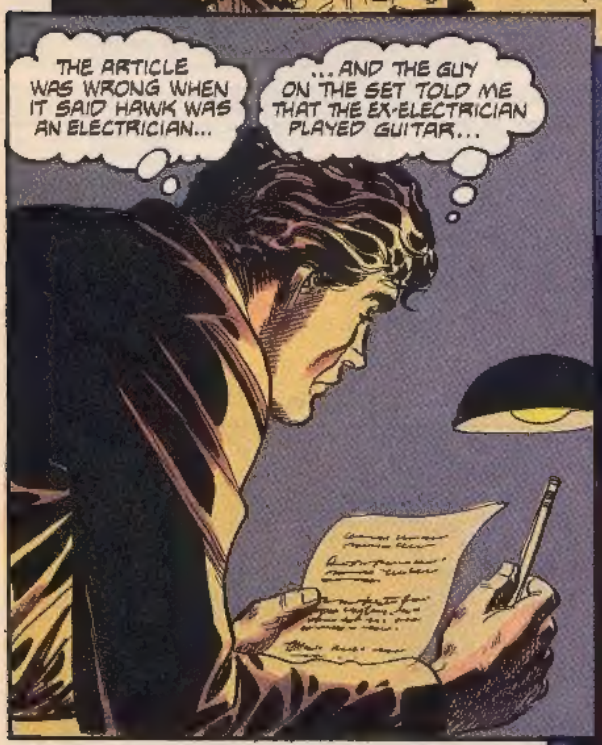
WHO SLEW KANGAROO? – THE ANSWER





I HUNT DOWN A MUSIC SHOP AND...
I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT A LIQUID BANDAGE CALLED NU-SKIN...
SURE. GOT IT RIGHT IN STOCK HERE.
YOU SELL IT? DO MUSICIANS USE THAT MUCH OF IT?
GUITAR PLAYERS DO. PLAYING GUITAR RIPS THE HELL OUT OF YOUR FINGER-TIPS...
'SPECIALLY IF YOU'RE LEFT-HANDED. NO ONE YET HAS MADE A GUITAR FOR LEFT-HANDERS THAT'S EASY ON THE FINGER-TIPS!
HOW ABOUT SOMEONE WHO PLAYED PIANO OR SAX OR TRUMPET OR DRUMS?
NO REASON THEY'D NEED IT. BUT NEARLY EVERY GUITAR PLAYER I'VE EVER SEEN KEEPS NU-SKIN IN HIS CASE.
THANKS!
I WAS RIGHT. NOW I KNOW WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER...
IT'S PROBABLY A WASTE OF TIME BUT I GO TO SEE HASKELL...
THERE THEY ARE, LEAVING...HE MUST'VE HAD THEM IN FOR QUESTIONING...
WANTED
ONCE I WAS SURE THEY WERE GONE...
YOU LET THEM GO? YOU KNOW ONE OF THEM COMMITTED MURDER AND THE OTHER THREE HELPED COVER UP...
I DON'T "KNOW" ANYTHING OF THE SORT!
2

THESE BOYS ARE BIG STARS. I ARREST THEM AND IT'S GOING TO BE ON THE FRONT PAGE...
I'M NOT TAKING ANY ACTION UNTIL I'M POSITIVE!
MY MIND IS MADE UP!
IT SURE IS. OF CEMENT!
OKAY, I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME... WHICH DOES RAISE THE INTERESTING QUESTION...
WHY IS IT ALWAYS UP TO ME?
NOAH ZARK
THURS-FRI-SAT - 8:00
THEY'RE JUST GETTING READY TO GO ON...
HI, GUYS! I KNOW A CATERER WHOSE INSURANCE COMPANY WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU...
IT'S HIM AGAIN--!
NICE TRY, GEORGE.
NICE GUESS, ENDICOTT... BUT I'M NOT SAYING IF YOU'RE RIGHT OR WRONG.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO. I KNOW DON IS DRAGON, THOM IS GOAT AND CARTER'S THE BEAR!
I'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT...
5

GEORGE PLAYS DRUMS AND SAX...AND HE USED TO BE A PLUMBER...
DON PLAYS DRUMS AND GUITAR AND HE WAS A BAKER...
THOM... SAX AND PIANO ...FORMER BARBER...
...AND YOU, CARTER, TRUMPET...PIANO ...SALESMAN!
DON MUST HAVE SHOT NED. WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS HOW INVOLVED YOU WERE, CARTER...
YOU'RE GUESSING! YEAH, YOU'RE JUST GUESSING!
AM I?
SHOULDA KILLED YOU BACK AT THAT KITCHEN!
LOOKS LIKES I STRUCK GOLD!
4

DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS?
DON'T YOU KNOW I LEFT A LIST OF MY FINDINGS WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY?
--WHICH IS WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE--!
MATTER OF FACT, I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT THIS WHOLE THING THROUGH A LOT BETTER...
--THOUGH MAYBE THIS SWITCH WILL GET ME OUT OF HERE.
WE'RE GONNA SHUT YOU UP FOR GOOD, ENDICOTT!
REALLY?
5

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR AN ENCORE?
SEE? I TOLD YOU IT WAS DON PLAYING THE DRAGON!
GEORGE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT I'M GETTING ME THE BEST LAWYER I CAN!
HASKELL SHOWS UP WHEN IT'S ALL OVER. I KINDA KNEW HE WOULD...
OKAY, ALL THE FACTS YOU GATHERED TIPPED YOU OFF TO WHO WAS WHO.* BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW...
...WHICH ONE PULLED THE TRIGGER? EASY...
*FOR A DETAILED EXPLANATION, SEE THE TEXT PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.
6

THE TRACES OF LIQUID BANDAGE ON THE MURDER WEAPON MADE ME REALIZE IT WAS PROBABLY A GUITAR PLAYER...
IT WAS AN EDUCATED GUESS BUT IT WAS RIGHT.
BUT DIDN'T TWO OF THEM PLAY GUITAR?
YES, BUT ONE OF THEM WAS NED, THE KANGAROO. SINCE HE WAS THE VICTIM, THAT ELIMINATED HIM... LEAVING DON!
THEY WERE BROKE. THEY HAD A DEAL TO BE IN EACH OTHER'S WILL... AND NED WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WITH MONEY LEFT.
I SEE. WELL, I HAVE DUTIES TO TEND TO--!
"DUTIES?" I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS DONE...
...THANKS TO OUR LONG INVESTIGATION, MY DEPARTMENT BROKE THIS CASE AND...
I WAS WRONG ABOUT WHO THE GOAT WAS...
TURNS OUT, IT'S ME.
The End

WHODUNNIT? CRIME FILE

Who Shot Danny Scott?

Well, last issue, we all found out it was Lou Berger. But only 18% of the entries figured that out and, of that 18%, only one person -- Beth Eikenbary of Boulder Creek, California -- answered all the other questions to the satisfaction of our judges. I was kinda amazed...

Only *one* out of all those hundreds of entries? I mean, I was kind of hoping that the mystery was tough enough that not a lot of folks would get it...and "correct" enough that someone would. And, sure enough, a lot of you got a lot of the answers right. Every question was answered right by a great many people. But Beth was the only one with all the answers in all the right places.

22% of our entries were certain that Tony Bivona had pulled the trigger. 12% fingered Nate Parks. 24% thought Randy Jensen was behind it all. A little under 10% picked Sue Stewart.

There were other votes cast for Jerry Bivona, Henry Kaufman, Benjamin Taylor, Della Gross and Ludwig Boyle. Three people thought that the man whose innocence Jay Endicott was trying to prove -- Harry Stein -- had dunnit and one person thought Harry's wife was behind it all.

Four people thought Danny Scott had shot Danny Scott; that Danny had committed suicide and framed certain folks. Two entrants thought that Danny had faked his death and was still alive...and one of those entries thought Danny was the person who had shot Doc Schuster (interesting idea...wish I'd thought of it). One person thought that Mark Evanier had killed Danny Scott and that Dan Spiegle had killed Doc Schuster, that person being either a poor judge of mysteries or an excellent judge of character. We also had one vote for someone named Arnold and I still haven't figured out who *he* is.

On Question #3 -- Who killed Doc Schuster -- you all did a little better. 37% of you named Nate Parks. 19% thought it was Tony Bivona. 18% picked Randy Jensen. 10% named the District Attorney, Benjamin Taylor. And then there were a couple of votes apiece for Lou Berger, Jerry Bivona, Molly Stein, Harry Stein (a neat trick since he was in jail at the time), Danny Scott, Jay's friend Helen, Henry Kaufman, Della Gross, Day *(who's "Day?")* and Ned (?).

Questions numbered five and six asked you to identify which piece of evidence was a phony and why. The answer -- that it was the letter that had to be fake because there were no zip codes when it was allegedly written -- was figured out by some 71% of all the entries. Not bad, folks. And a few of you even found the hidden picture of Groo the Wanderer, almost obliterated by the colorist on page 20.

I haven't yet sifted through the answers for #2 yet but I will explain the solution for those of you who were wondering how to figure out...

Who Slew Kangaroo?

Those of you who entered probably spent an hour or three with charts all over the place and graphs, figuring out if the electrician played the guitar or wore a bear suit. If it was as maddening an experience for *you* as it was for some of my friends, take heart: It's a lot easier to solve one of these suckers than it is to create it. I figure I drew down about eight cents an hour for writing this one.

This kind of puzzle is almost as difficult to explain as it is to solve but, basically, here goes...

We know from the magazine article that Dragon was not a plumber, Kangaroo was not a salesman, Goat was not a baker, Hawk was not an electrician and Bear was not a barber. We also know that Don was not the electrician, that he didn't play piano or sax but that he did

play drums. George, we learn, also played drums. Of Don and George, one was Dragon and the other was the former plumber. Hawk doesn't play both piano and sax.

On page one, we see that Carter plays the trumpet and we see that Goat plays piano and that Bear plays trumpet. On page four, we see that Don is not the Hawk, that the Kangaroo played trumpet and didn't play sax and that no trumpet player could play sax.

On page six, we learn that the barber played piano and that Bear was a salesman. On page twelve, we learn that the electrician played guitar. Of course, we've known all along that Ned was the Kangaroo.

Now, here's where the deductive process starts...

Each musician played two apiece of the following instruments: Piano, drum, sax, trumpet, guitar.

Carter must be Bear since he plays trumpet and the only other trumpet player is Kangaroo, now deceased. Since no trumpet player plays sax, Carter's other instrument must be drums, guitar or piano. We can eliminate drums since the article tells us that the two drum players were Don and George. Bear, we already know, was a salesman so that sets Carter's occupation. We have him all figured out except that we don't know if his second instrument was guitar or piano. We'll come back to him.

Now, let's see if we can find our two sax players. We know Don doesn't play sax. We also know that our two trumpet players -- Ned and Carter -- didn't play sax. Ergo, Thom and George must play sax. George's two instruments are thereby established as drums and sax.

One of Don's instruments is drums. Since we've found both our trumpet players and both our sax players, that means his second instrument must be guitar or piano.

But Don admitted in the article he doesn't play piano so his second instrument must be guitar. Since he does not play piano, he cannot be Goat. We already know he's not Bear or Kangaroo. Therefore, he must be Hawk or Dragon. But early in the story, we saw Don with Hawk. Ergo, he is Dragon. The line about Don and George each being either the Dragon or the former plumber tells us that George was a plumber.

Okay: Now let's stop and take a look at what we've got so far...

NED: Kangaroo, Trumpet.
CARTER: Bear, Trumpet, Piano, Salesman.
DON: Dragon, Drums, Guitar.
GEORGE: Drums, Sax, Plumber.
THOM: Sax.

We know from the article that Don wasn't the electrician. We've also established he's not the salesman or plumber since those occupations are already assigned. He can't be the barber since the barber played piano. Thus, Don must be the baker.

Now, of George and Thom, one is Goat and one is Hawk. But we know Goat plays piano (see page one) and since George's two instruments are already assigned, he can't be Goat. Thus, Thom must be Goat and that leaves George as Hawk. Thom's two instruments are now established as piano and sax. (We're getting there, folks...)

The electrician played guitar. We know Don is one of our guitar players but since his occupation is already assigned, it's not him. The only other possible people who could play guitar are Carter and Ned. But Carter's occupation is already assigned, also. Therefore, Ned must have been a guitar player and an electrician. Earlier, we said that Carter's second instrument was either piano or guitar. Since we just found our second guitar player, that means Carter must play piano. Similarly, since all the other occupations are assigned, Thom must be a barber.

Our chart is now complete...

NED: Kangaroo, Trumpet, Guitar, Electrician.
CARTER: Bear, Trumpet, Piano, Salesman.
DON: Dragon, Drums, Guitar, Baker.
GEORGE: Hawk, Drums, Sax, Plumber.
THOM: Goat, Sax, Piano, Barber.

I don't know about *you* but I'm exhausted. Jay Endicott's brilliant deduction establishes that the person who pulled the trigger was a guitar player. As a glance at our graph confirms, one of the two guitar players was the Deceased. Thus, the other one -- Don -- is the murderer.

Whew.

Well, there's *one* way to arrive at the solution, Sherlocks. There are others, none of them easy. But, hey, if it were easy would it have been worth a thousand bucks?

Finding out who offed Henry Croft is probably a lot easier. But I wouldn't bet on it.

-- Mark Evanier

WHO OFFED HENRY CROFT?

The Answer

THEY'VE PROBABLY HEARD PROBABLY ON THE PHONE RIGHT THIS MINUTE...
IT WAS ON THE RADIO. ENDICOTT GOT IT POSTPONED. HE MUST HAVE FIGURED IT OUT.
WE HAVE TO GET RID OF ALL THE EVIDENCE
THEY PROBABLY DESTROYED THE GUN SHELL BUT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE GONE AFTER THE PHOTO. NO REASON TO
I HOPE DELLA CAN HELP--
BEING A GOSSIP COLUMNIST DELLA GROSS HAS TO KNOW HIM
HE'S A YOUNG GUY. HE WAS AT THE SPACEMAN SCREENING AT THE ACADEMY LAST YEAR
YOU DO REALIZE YOU WOKE ME UP--?
IT'S URGENT, DELLA. THE PHOTOGRAPHER TOOK A PHOTO OF DUNCAN BARNES "SHOOTING" SPACEMAN WITH A RAYGUN
I HAVE TO FIND THAT PHOTOGRAPHER
IT'S PROBABLY KEN GELMAN. HE LOVES THAT STUFF
LET ME HAVE HIS ADDRESS
IT TURNS OUT HE LIVES IN A CONDO OUT IN VAN NUYS.

BUT BY THE TIME I GET THERE..
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM IN YOU MR VOGEL.
ALL THOSE YEARS WHEN I WATCHED YOU PLAY "SPACEMAN"... I THOUGHT YOU WERE A HELLUVA GUY.
TURNS OUT YOU'RE A TWO-BIT MURDERER.
I OUGHTA GET AN EMMY FOR RIDDING THE WORLD OF HENRY CROFT. I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE HE CHEATED--
--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR AN ACTOR TO GET TYPED AS A COSTUMED GOON I COULDN'T GET A REAL JOB ANYWHERE--
--AND CROFT MADE ME CRAWL TO GET JOBS PLAYING SPACEMAN--!
OW! I FORGOT WHAT AN ATHLETE HE WAS.
I'LL KILL YOU TO SHUT YOU UP--
NOT IF THIS SWITCH CONTROLS ALL THESE LIGHTS--

WELL THAT'S HALF THE OPERATION NOW, IF THAT PHOTO IS STILL AROUND
WHAT THE -ELL--?
CALL THE POLICE, KEN, AND THEN YOU HAVE TO FIND ME A PHOTOGRAPH IN YOUR FILES!
I EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HIM, AND, SURE ENOUGH HE HAS THE PICTURE
SPACEMAN'S CREATOR TURNS THE TABLES ON HIM HERE YOU GO--
DO YOU HAVE THE NEGATIVE HERE? I NEED A BLOW UP OF JUST THIS SECTION-- AND I NEED IT FAST!
THAT'S IT

WHILE HE'S DOING THAT, THE POLICE COME AND TAKE VOGEL AWAY
I JUST HAS TO DRY!
ALMOST MORNING BUCHANAN WILL BE IN HIS OFFICE
THAT'S WHERE HE IS... RIGHT..
THAT'S RIGHT. A FULL-BLITZ MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON SPACE-MAN!! I WANT PUBLICITY!
OH YOU'LL GET PLENTY.
THE POLICE ARE CHARGING WALT VOGEL WITH THE MURDER OF HENRY CROFT
IMPOSSIBLE! WALT WAS FILMING ON THE SET WITH US WHEN HENRY WAS SHOT
NO HE WAS HERE-- IN THIS OFFICE YOU SLIPPED AWAY JUST BEFORE THEY CALLED HIM IN HIS DRESSING ROOM
YOU SLIPPED INTO HIS COSTUME AND USED A TAPE RECORDER TO PLAY THE PRE-TAPED SOUND OF VOGEL'S VOICE...
COME ON VOGEL WE NEED YOU ON THE SET.
I'M COMING I'M COMING

YOU IMPERSONATED VOGEL SO WE'D ALL THINK HE WAS THERE...
...ACTUALLY, HE WAS HERE SHOOTING HENRY CROFT. HE DROPPED THE GUN AND FLED JUST BEFORE DUNCAN BARNES ARRIVED... AS YOU KNEW HE WOULD...
...AND YOU HAD AN ALIBI BECAUSE WE'D ALL SEEN YOU JUST MOMENTS BEFORE...
...LATER, WHEN WALT FINALLY GOT BACK TO THE SET, YOU TRIGGERED A FAKE "ACCIDENT"...
...THAT WAS SO YOU'D BE KNOCKED OUT OF SIGHT WHERE YOU COULD SWITCH AND HE COULD TAKE OVER AS HIMSELF
...THUS, YOU BOTH HAD ALIBIS, YOU'D "BOTH" BEEN SEEN RIGHT AROUND THE TIME THE MURDER TOOK PLACE ...A HALF-HOUR AWAY--!
BUT BARNES FINGERPRINTS WERE ON THE MURDER WEAPON--.
--WHICH VOGEL OBTAINED AT THE ACADEMY SCREENING BY GETTING DUNCAN TO HOLD THE RAYGUN...
...THE GUN HE'D USE TO KILL CROFT WAS INSIDE-- UNLOADED...

WHEN DUNCAN HELD IT HIS PRINTS GOT ON ITS BARREL.
QUITE A SCHEME. YOU GOT A BIG PROMOTION AND YOU GOT RID OF SPACEMAN'S CREATOR WHOSE POVERTY WAS EMBARRASSING THE COMPANY
A FEW DAYS LATER, A COURT FREES DUNCAN BARNES...WHO'LL BE RETURNING TO WRITE SPACEMAN, IT APPEARS...
DADDY, WAS SO WORRIED
KASA
IT'S LIKE I'VE ALWAYS SAID, JENNY. THERE'S ALWAYS A HAPPY ENDING.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. ENDICOTT?
FOR SOME PEOPLE DUNCAN ...FOR SOME PEOPLE..
The End

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No 3
WHODUNNIT?
WHO OFFED HENRY CROFT?
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DETAILS INSIDE
by Mark EVANIER and DAN SPIEGLE

The PENUMBRA

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Four science fiction tales to take you across the last horizon

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A new story featuring the centaurs from issue no 1 Plus, Alice in Wonderland

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The New Wave's search for the missing Dot leads them smack into the Volunteers

MR MONSTER no 9
Doc Stearn takes a vacation which proves to be more stressful than expected

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Be the first to answer the question "Who Offed Henry Croft?" and WIN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

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Explore a world in which every citizen conspires against the totalitarian government except one man

ENCHANTER no 1
Markisham stands up to his evil father and discovers his immortal powers But on Mid Earth who will pay the price?

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The Crusaders launch their assault against The Crushers, who have captured the Crusaders Citadel.

CROSSFIRE no 21
Jay Endicott learns the story of a man who lives his life decidedly out of sequence

PORTIA PRINZ OF THE GLAMAZONS no 3
The Pro-Tech Conspiracy Group forms as the Technology Crisis threatens Glamazon Island's new queen, Portia Prinz

PAPER DOLLS FROM THE COMICS
Presenting a collection of paper dolls which originally appeared in rare newspaper comic strips decades ago. Edited by Trina Robbins

AS FORETOLD: Like said in the last Penumbra, this time I'm gonna tell you all about our new offices. Of course, if you read **The Comics Buyer's Guide** or **Amazing Heroes,** which carry **Page Nine** and **Fit to Print,** you already know about this stuff, and maybe more than you even wanted to know, come to think of it

Anyway, it is now early March in Real Time, and we have moved into our new, improved, unfloodable offices in Forestville, California

Forestville is about an hour and a half drive north of San Francisco, on Highway 116, near the Russian River (but not too near). We have a little two acre remnant of one of the early farms in this area, complete with ten-room Victorian house, ancient olive, apple and fig trees, and a falling-down barn The offices are in what used to be a big garage-workshop building. We have insulated, sheetrocked, floored, wainscotted, carpeted, and aesthetically improved this structure 'til even its own mother would not recognize it on the street. It looks nice enough to live in, and since work is how most of us spend most of our lives, it is also good enough to work in

The walls have been painted a light cream colour which the Pittsburgh Paint Company chooses to call "Silkspun," and the window mouldings are what they call 'Light Celadon' This utterly colourless colour is known to deco-streamline-moderne collectors as "Depression Green" or "Nile Green" or "Lettuce Green"

Now, although the "Silkspun" paint is approximately the colour of an unprocessed silk-worm cocoon, the so-called "Light Celadon" is neither Celadon (a gray-green pottery glaze), depression-provoking, the colour of any known river including the Nile, nor the colour of lettuce of any variety whatsoever

And yes, I thought that you might find that as odd as I find it Could be wrong, though You might be colour-blind

To complete this little inventory of colours, I should note that both the exposed pine ceiling beams and the knotty pine wainscotting are stained to a reddish oak tone, to match the oak flooring and the multitude of antique oak desks, chairs, cupboards, art chests, and filing cabinets amongst which we toil like oggers in a stylized forest. There is one lone non-oak item, a magnificent nine foot tall and seven foot wide chestnut wood apothecary's storage cupboard. This 100 year old monster is filled with office supplies and stationery It dominates the room in a kindly, wooden way

So much for the **Architectural Digest** angle on our new digs. What counts is that we're here now and you ought to note our new address and phone number

The mail comes to:
ECLIPSE COMICS
POST OFFICE BOX 1099
FORESTVILLE, CALIF 95436

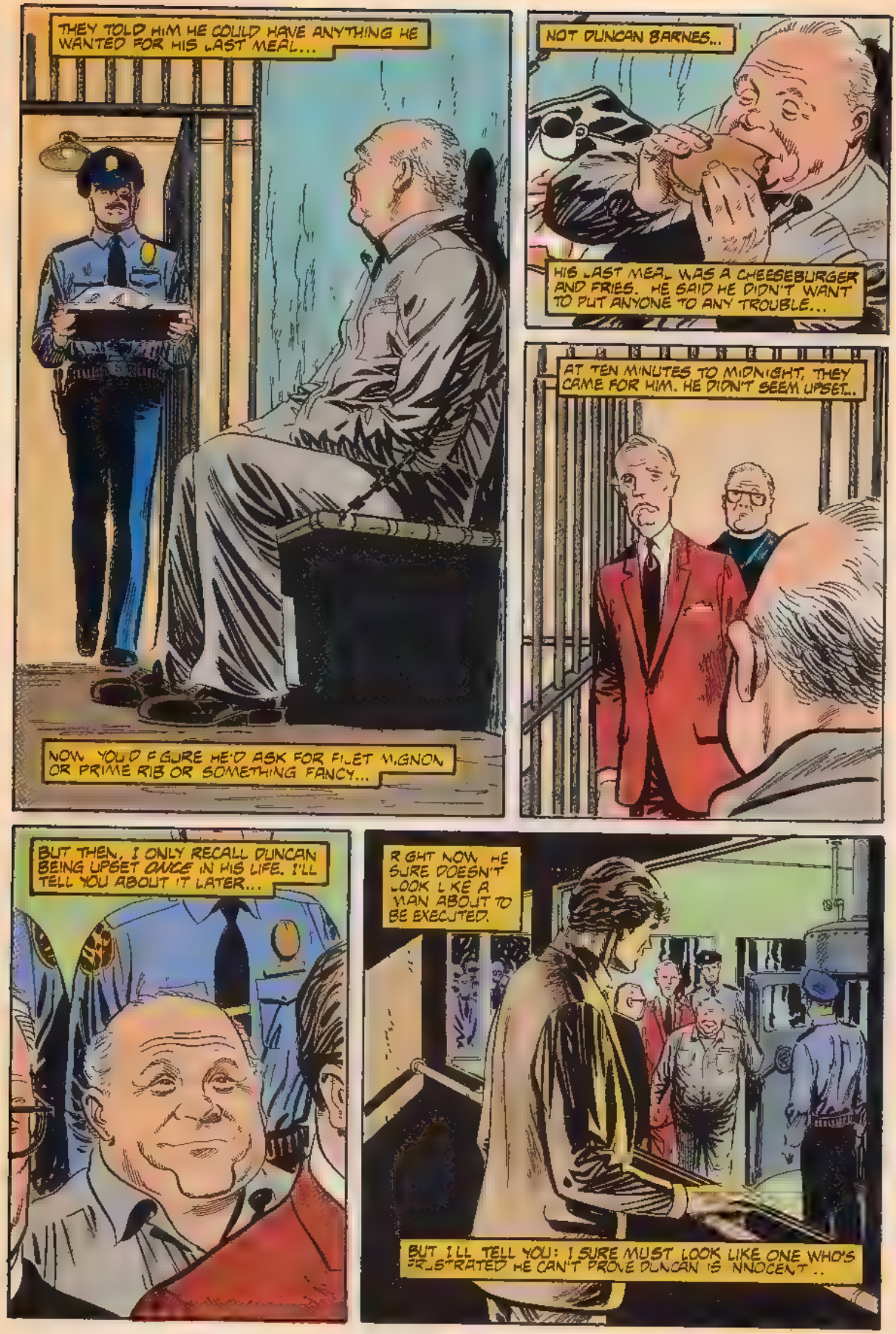
If you have to telephone us, our number is (707) 887 1521

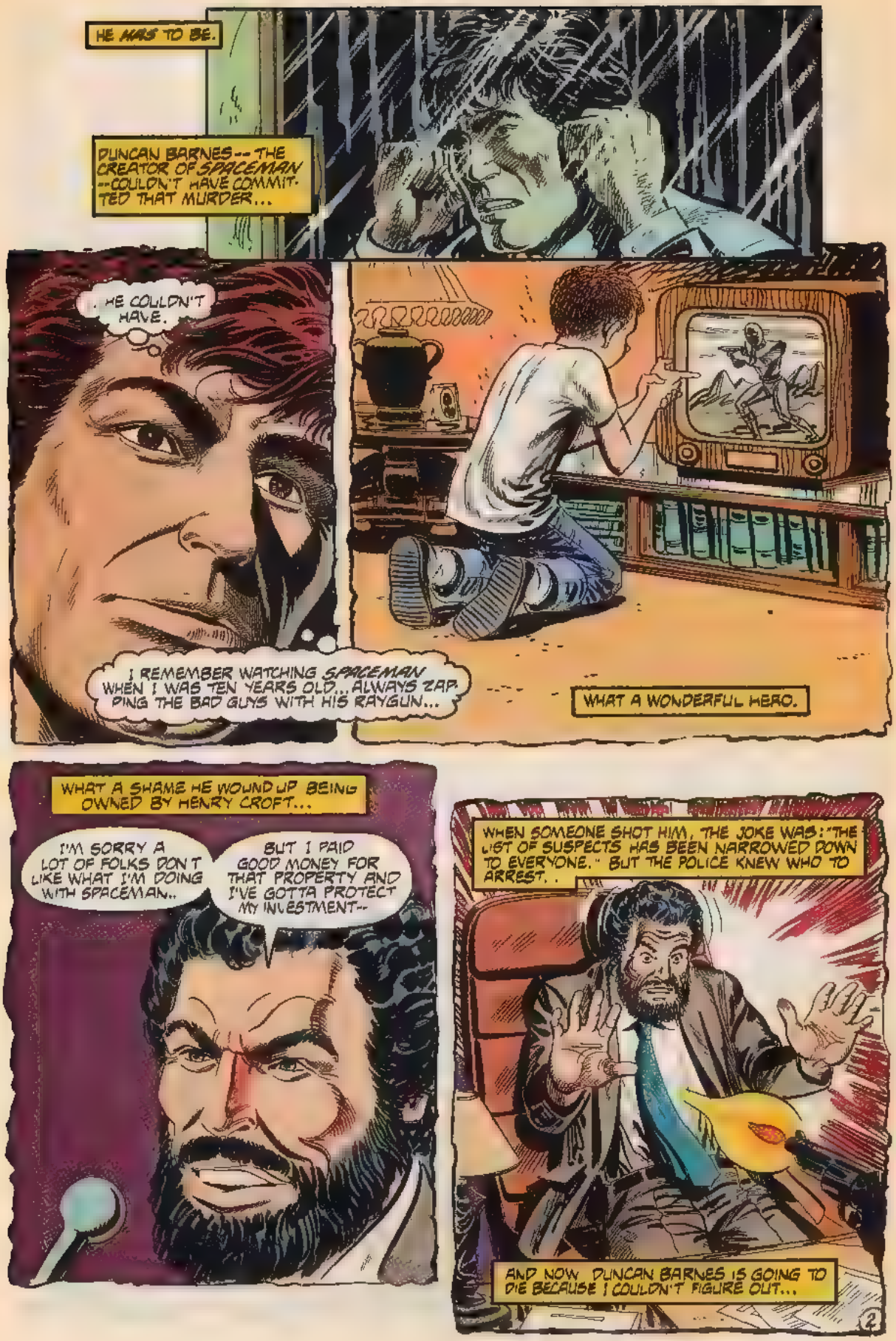
If you want to visit us in the flesh, call Traci at the phone number above and arrange to drop by in the afternoon when someone will be able to spare a few minutes to show you around the place, give you a free comic book and send you back into the world able to identify "Light Celadon" paint instantly

BCNU!

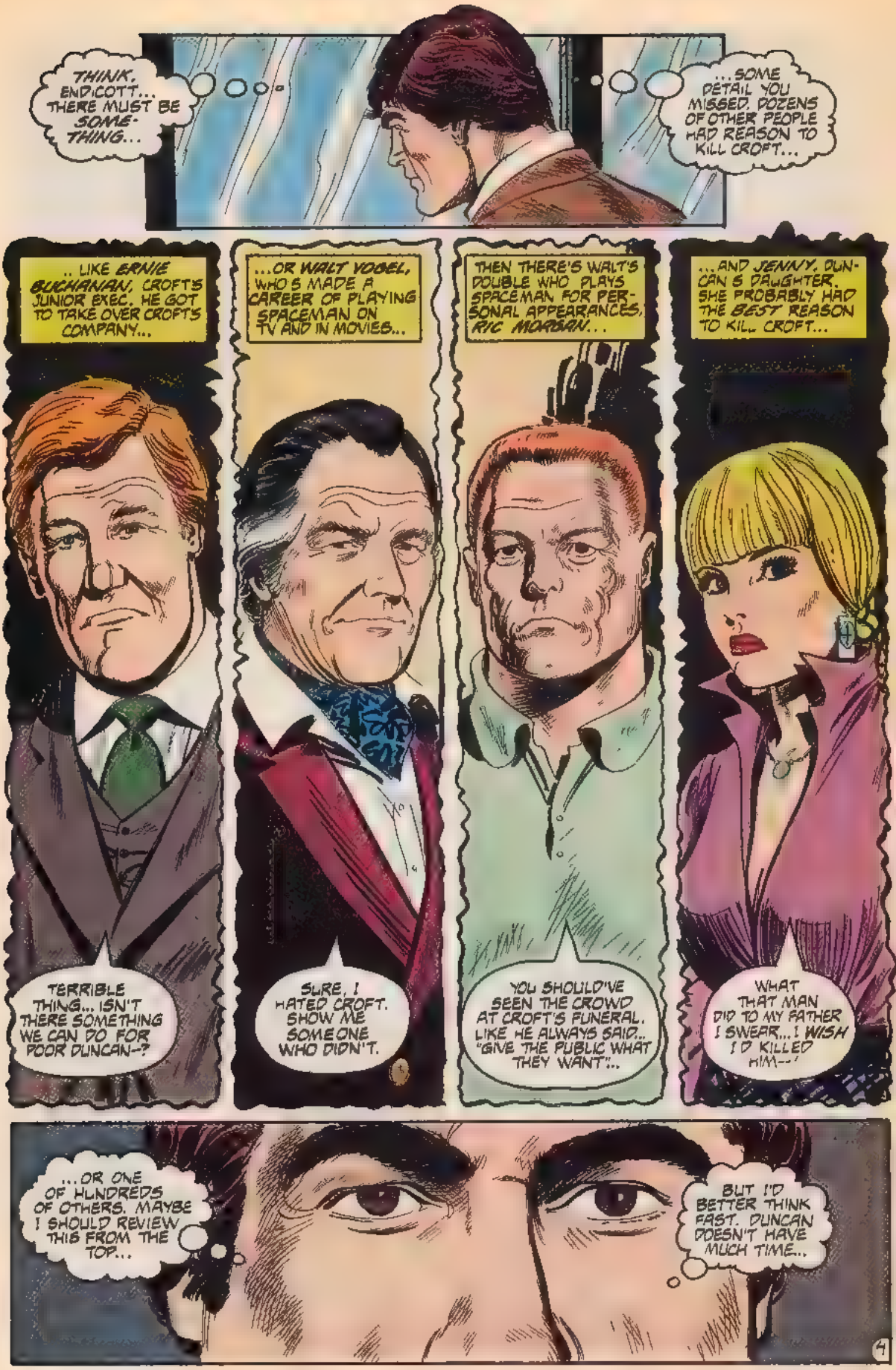
catherine yronwode

WHODUNNIT?™ no 3 April 1987 Published quarterly by Eclipse Comics P O Box 1099 Forestville CA 95436 Letha Glozer Editor Catherine Yronwode Editor-in-Chief Dean Mullaney Publisher Cover art ©1987 Dan Spiegle Story ©1987 Mark Evanier Art ©1987 Dan Spiegle Whodunnit? TM Eclipse Enterprises, Inc Jay Endicott ® Evanier & Meugniot. All other material ©1987 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved The stories, characters and events in this magazine are fictional. Film by SM Graphics


THEY TOLD HIM HE COULD HAVE ANYTHING HE WANTED FOR HIS LAST MEAL...
NOW, YOU'D FIGURE HE'D ASK FOR FILET MIGNON OR PRIME RIB OR SOMETHING FANCY...
NOT DUNCAN BARNES..
HIS LAST MEAL WAS A CHEESEBURGER AND FRIES. HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO PUT ANYONE TO ANY TROUBLE...
AT TEN MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT, THEY CAME FOR HIM. HE DIDN'T SEEM UPSET..
BUT THEN, I ONLY RECALL DUNCAN BEING UPSET *ONCE* IN HIS LIFE. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT LATER...
RIGHT NOW, HE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MAN ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU: I SURE MUST LOOK LIKE ONE WHO'S FRUSTRATED HE CAN'T PROVE DUNCAN IS INNOCENT..

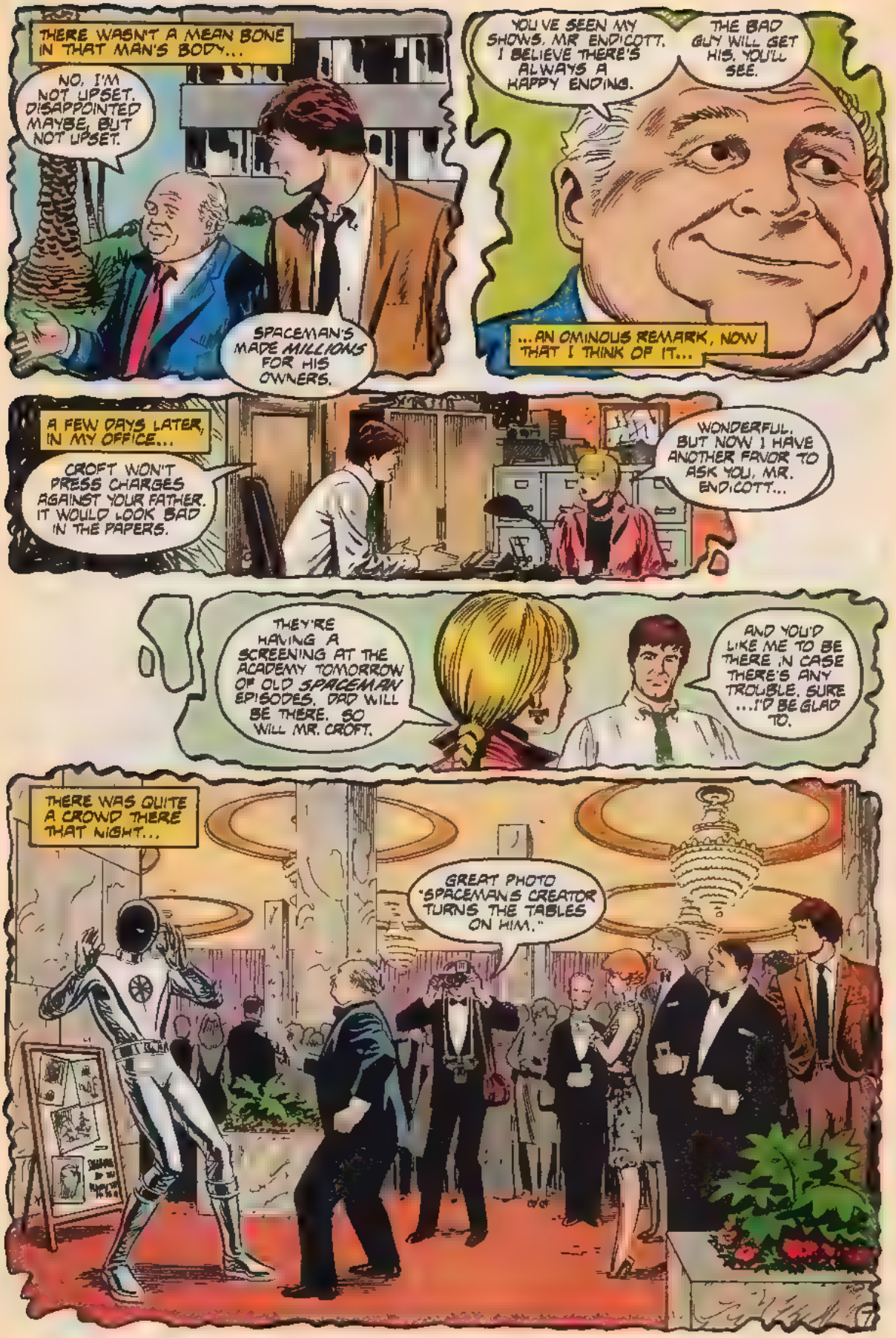

HE HAS TO BE.
DUNCAN BARNES -- THE CREATOR OF SPACEMAN --COULDN'T HAVE COMMITTED THAT MURDER...
. HE COULDN'T HAVE.
I REMEMBER WATCHING SPACEMAN WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD... ALWAYS ZAPPING THE BAD GUYS WITH HIS RAYGUN...
WHAT A WONDERFUL HERO.
WHAT A SHAME HE WOUND UP BEING OWNED BY HENRY CROFT...
I'M SORRY A LOT OF FOLKS DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M DOING WITH SPACEMAN..
BUT I PAID GOOD MONEY FOR THAT PROPERTY AND I'VE GOTTA PROTECT MY INVESTMENT--
WHEN SOMEONE SHOT HIM, THE JOKE WAS: "THE LIST OF SUSPECTS HAS BEEN NARROWED DOWN TO EVERYONE." BUT THE POLICE KNEW WHO TO ARREST. .
AND NOW DUNCAN BARNES IS GOING TO DIE BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT...
2

WHO OFFED HENRY CROFT?
BY MARK EVANIER AND DAN SPIEGLE
LETTERING: CARRIE SPIEGLE
COLORING: MARCUS DAVID
TITLE BY LEN WEIN
3


THINK, ENDICOTT... THERE MUST BE SOMETHING...
...SOME DETAIL YOU MISSED. DOZENS OF OTHER PEOPLE HAD REASON TO KILL CROFT...
.. LIKE ERNIE BUCHANAN, CROFT'S JUNIOR EXEC. HE GOT TO TAKE OVER CROFT'S COMPANY...
TERRIBLE THING... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO FOR POOR DUNCAN--?
...OR WALT VOGEL, WHO'S MADE A CAREER OF PLAYING SPACEMAN ON TV AND IN MOVIES...
SURE. I HATED CROFT. SHOW ME SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T.
THEN THERE'S WALT'S DOUBLE WHO PLAYS SPACEMAN FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCES, RIC MORGAN...
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE CROWD AT CROFT'S FUNERAL. LIKE HE ALWAYS SAID.. "GIVE THE PUBLIC WHAT THEY WANT"...
...AND JENNY, DUNCAN'S DAUGHTER. SHE PROBABLY HAD THE BEST REASON TO KILL CROFT...
WHAT THAT MAN DID TO MY FATHER I SWEAR... I WISH I'D KILLED HIM--!
...OR ONE OF HUNDREDS OF OTHERS. MAYBE I SHOULD REVIEW THIS FROM THE TOP...
BUT I'D BETTER THINK FAST. DUNCAN DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME...

DUNCAN CREATED SPACEMAN IN 1961 FOR A SYNDICATED TV SHOW. THE CHARACTER CAUGHT ON BIG...
...RIGHT UP THERE WITH THE LONE RANGER AND ZORRO AND SUPERMAN...
WALT VOGEL STARRED AS SPACEMAN AND THE SHOW--AND THE CHARACTER--WERE OWNED BY TEX FOSTER...
DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, DUNCAN. LONG AS I'M AROUND, I'M GONNA TAKE RIGHT GOOD CARE OF YOU...
I'M SURE YOU WILL, MR. FOSTER.
TEX DID THINGS REAL INFORMAL...
DUNC, HERE'S YOUR PAYCHECK. AND THEM BOYS UP IN LEGAL ...THEY'RE ON MY KEESTER TO GET YOU TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT...
DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE IT HOME AND READ IT OVER?
OH WELL, THEY GOT SOME POLICY AGAINST CONTRACTS LEAVIN' THE BUILDING. BUT I THOUGHT YOU TRUSTED ME--?
OH, I DO. NO, IT'S OKAY. I'LL SIGN.
THE TV SHOW GOT CANCELLED, BUT IT'S BEEN RERUN FOREVER...
AND THEN--IN 1981--TEX FOSTER RETIRED WHEN HIS WHOLE COMPANY WAS ACQUIRED BY THE CROFT CORPORATION...

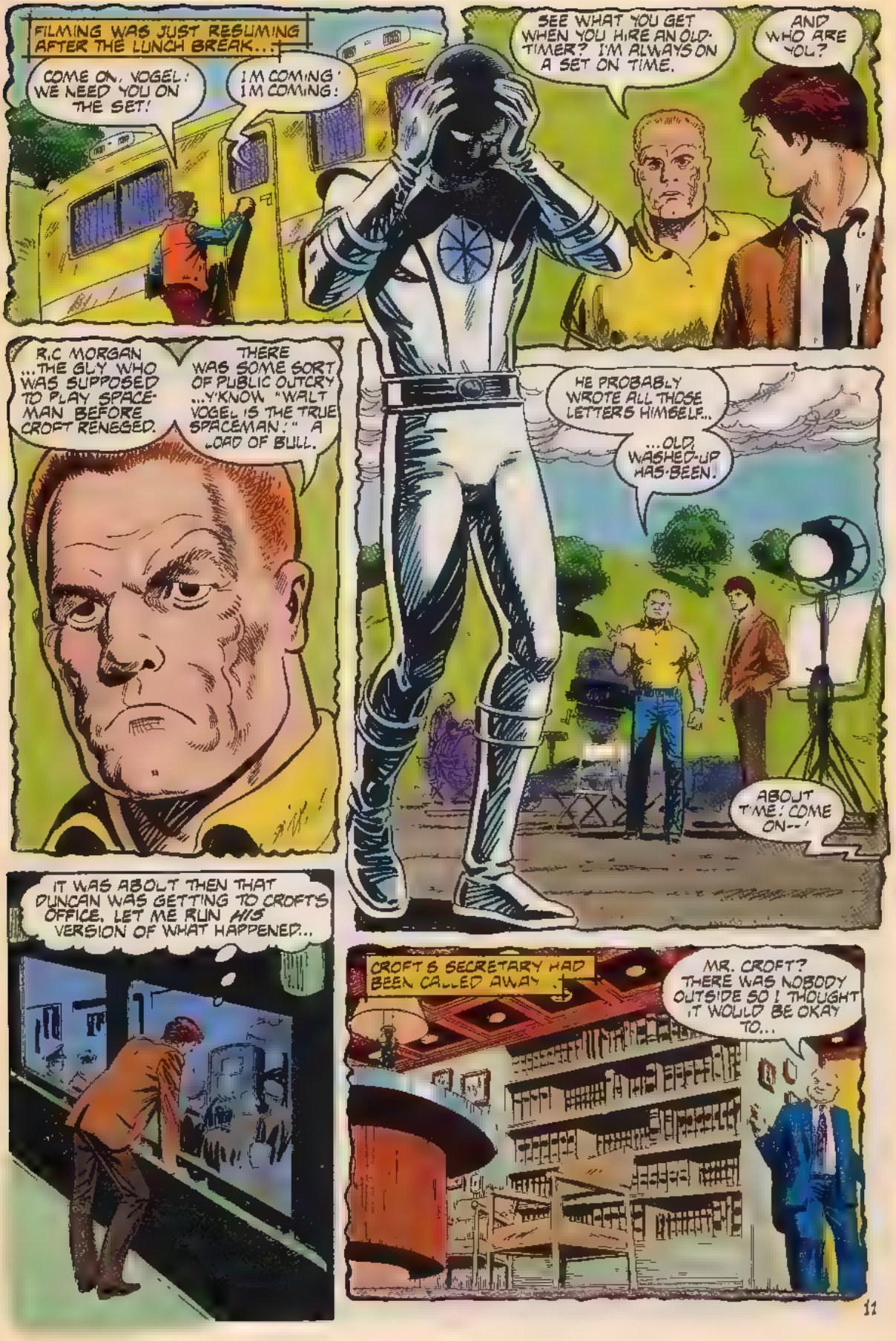
SPACEMAN HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LICENSED SPACEMAN TOILET PAPER! YOU KEEP EXPLOITING THE CHARACTER...EVERY WAY...
IT'S MINE I CAN EXPLOIT IT ANY WAY I WANT.
NO! NO, HE'S NOT YOURS!
MAYBE YOU OWN THE COPYRIGHT, BUT I CREATED HIM. HE'S MINE...MINE AND THE WORLD'S IN A WAY YOU CAN NEVER OWN!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU
SECURITY? CROFT. GET UP HERE AND THROW DUNCAN BARNES OUT OF THE BUILDING.
NO, BETTER STILL, I WANT HIM ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING. I FIRED HIM TEN MINUTES AGO!
"FIRED?"
I HEARD WHAT IT WAS LIKE...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. MR. FOSTER PROMISED!
YOU CAN'T FIRE ME. I CREATED SPACEMAN.
SECURI
THAT'S WHEN I GOT INVOLVED. HIS DAUGHTER PHONED ME...
THAT'S YOUR BAIL-BONDSMAN, JAY ENDICOTT
MR. BARNES, IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET THE CREATOR OF SPACEMAN.
THANK YOU...
6


THERE WASN'T A MEAN BONE IN THAT MAN'S BODY...
NO, I'M NOT UPSET. DISAPPOINTED MAYBE, BUT NOT UPSET.
SPACEMAN'S MADE MILLIONS FOR HIS OWNERS.
YOU'VE SEEN MY SHOWS, MR. ENDICOTT. I BELIEVE THERE'S ALWAYS A HAPPY ENDING.
THE BAD GUY WILL GET HIS. YOU'LL SEE.
...AN OMINOUS REMARK, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
A FEW DAYS LATER, IN MY OFFICE...
CROFT WON'T PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOUR FATHER. IT WOULD LOOK BAD IN THE PAPERS.
WONDERFUL. BUT NOW I HAVE ANOTHER FAVOR TO ASK YOU, MR. ENDICOTT...
THEY'RE HAVING A SCREENING AT THE ACADEMY TOMORROW OF OLD SPACEMAN EPISODES. DAD WILL BE THERE. SO WILL MR. CROFT.
AND YOU'D LIKE ME TO BE THERE, IN CASE THERE'S ANY TROUBLE. SURE ...I'D BE GLAD TO.
THERE WAS QUITE A CROWD THERE THAT NIGHT...
GREAT PHOTO "SPACEMAN'S CREATOR TURNS THE TABLES ON HIM."

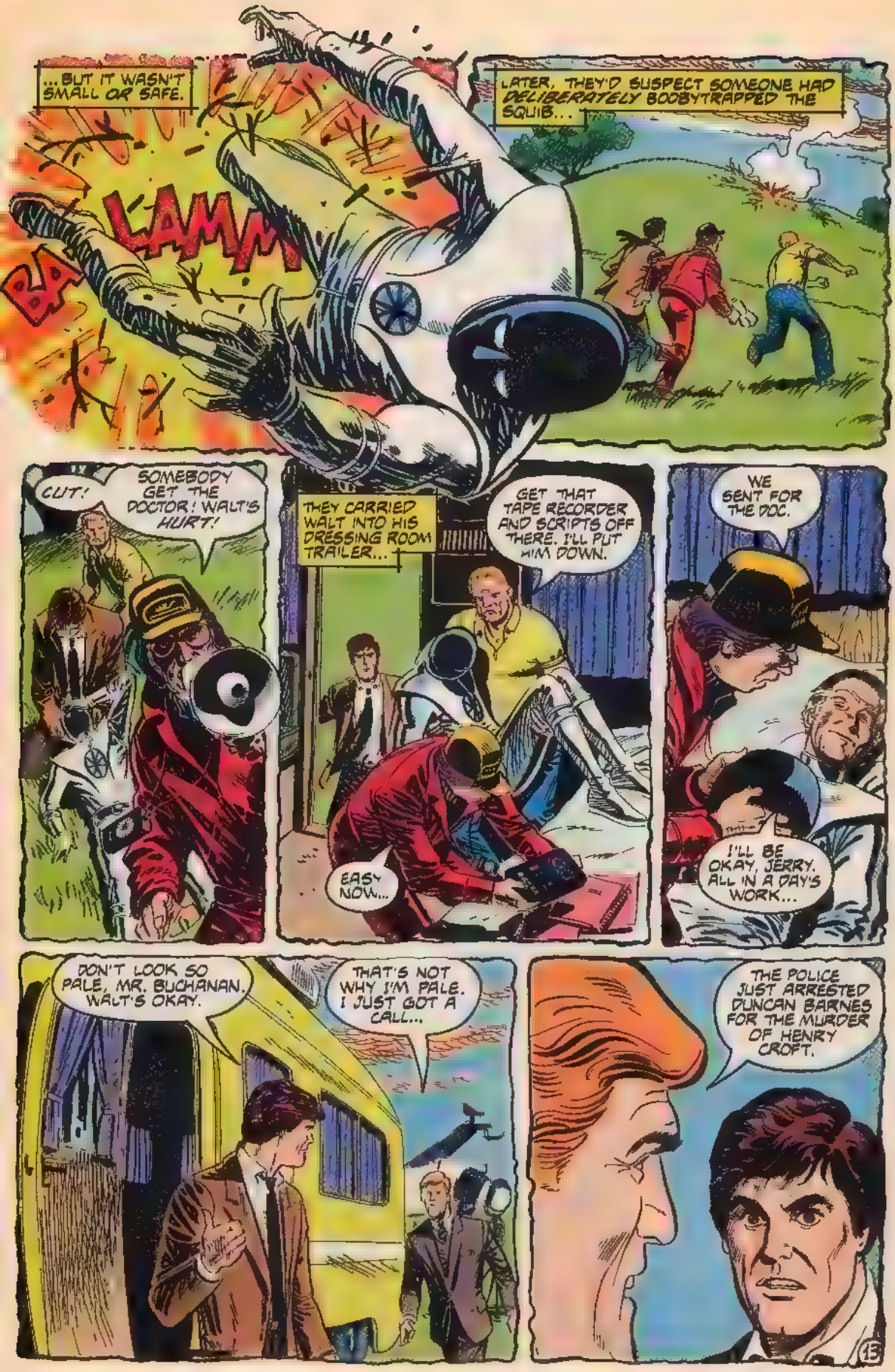
YOU USE THAT CAPTION AND I'LL SUE YOUR MAGAZINE INTO OBLIVION. DUNCAN BARNES IS NOT TO BE MENTIONED.
AW, BUT MR. CROFT...
YEAH, LIGHTEN UP, HENRY. I SET IT UP TO GENERATE SOME PUBLICITY FOR THE NEW MOVIE.
LET'S GO TALK IN PRIVATE, VOGEL.
I'M NOT UPSET, MR. CROFT. AND YOU KNOW WHY I'M NOT UPSET?
BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE YOU ALWAYS GET WHAT'S COMING TO THEM. YOU'LL SEE.
LATER, WITNESSES TO THAT REMARK WOULD CHARACTERIZE IT AS A "THREAT" IN COURT...
DUNCAN THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR STORIES..
MR. BARNES? I'M ERNIE BUCHANAN. I'M WITH CROFT. I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU...
I'VE DISCUSSED IT WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IF CROFT WILL GO ALONG WITH IT, WE'D LIKE TO HIRE YOU BACK...
...A LIFETIME JOB WITH PENSION, TO SUPERVISE SPACEMAN FILMS AND TOYS.
YES! THE MONEY...TELL THEM THE MONEY DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS I GET TO WATCH OVER SPACEMAN!
AMAZING, I THOUGHT...MAYBE DUNCAN WAS RIGHT..
THIS COULD HAVE A HAPPY ENDING!
BOY, WAS I EVER WRONG--.

THEN THERE WAS THAT CONVERSATION I OVERHEARD...
THE MONEY YOU'RE OFFERING ME TO STAR IN THIS NEW MOVIE... IT'S NOT STAR PAY.
AND YOU'RE NOT A STAR.
TWENTY YEARS AGO, YOU PLAYED SPACEMAN. HOW MANY DAYS HAVE YOU WORKED SINCE--? A FEW WEEKS ON A SOAP OPERA?
IT'S THE ROLE'S FAULT. I GOT "TYPED" AS SPACEMAN.
I MADE MY OFFER. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER GO BACK TO NOSTALGIA CONVENTIONS AND TRY A GAMES?
OH, HI. SORRY, I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEAR...
LOOK, THIS MAY NOT BE THE TIME TO SAY THIS, BUT I USED TO WATCH "SPACEMAN" RELIGIOUSLY. I'M JAY ENDICOTT.
HEY WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT TO THE SET AND WATCH US SHOOT?
THANKS JAY WE START SHOOTING THE NEW "SPACEMAN" MOVIE ON MONDAY
THANKS. MAYBE I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.
9

THE FOLLOWING MONDAY I DROVE UP TO THE MOVIE STUDIO RANCH IN MALIBU..
WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT DUNCAN GOT A PHONE CALL THAT MORNING...
YOU WANT TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME, MR CROFT?
YEAH THE BOARD WANTS YOU ON STAFF. COME IN AND LET'S DISCUSS IT. SAY, AROUND TWO O'CLOCK?
I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MEETING WHEN I RAN INTO BUCHANAN ON THE SET...
YOU'RE SERIOUS? THE TWO OF THEM ARE MEETING?
N EXACTLY FIVE MINUTES.
I'M GOING TO PHONE HENRY AND REMIND HIM TO BE NICE.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SETTLED. LOOKS LIKE DUNCAN IS GETTING HIS HAPPY ENDING..
LIKE I KEEP SAYING. BOY WAS I EVER WRONG--.
I REMEMBER THINKING I SHOULD GO BE WITH HIM FOR THAT MEETING...
BUT IT WAS A HALF-HOUR DRIVE AND I'D NEVER MAKE IT...


FILMING WAS JUST RESUMING AFTER THE LUNCH BREAK...
COME ON, VOGEL! WE NEED YOU ON THE SET!
I'M COMING! I'M COMING!
SEE WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU HIRE AN OLD-TIMER? I'M ALWAYS ON A SET ON TIME.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
R.C MORGAN ...THE GUY WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY SPACE-MAN BEFORE CROFT RENEGED.
THERE WAS SOME SORT OF PUBLIC OUTCRY ...Y'KNOW, "WALT VOGEL IS THE TRUE SPACEMAN!" A LOAD OF BULL.
HE PROBABLY WROTE ALL THOSE LETTERS HIMSELF...
...OLD, WASHED-UP HAS-BEEN.
ABOUT TIME! COME ON--!
IT WAS ABOUT THEN THAT DUNCAN WAS GETTING TO CROFT'S OFFICE. LET ME RUN HIS VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED...
CROFT'S SECRETARY HAD BEEN CALLED AWAY...
MR. CROFT? THERE WAS NOBODY OUTSIDE SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE OKAY TO...

DUNCAN'S STORY NEVER CHANGED. HE SWORE CROFT WAS ALREADY DEAD...
M-M-MISTER CROFT?
THE SMOKING REVOLVER, HE SWORE, WAS AT HIS FEET...
JUST THEN, CROFT'S SECRETARY RETURNED. SHE'D BEEN GONE FOUR MINUTES...
A HALF-HOUR LATER, WE STILL HADN'T HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
TO YOUR RIGHT MORE, WALT!
SET TO TRIGGER SPECIAL EFFECTS BLAST--!
WE HAVE A SQUIB CHARGE IN THAT TREE. MAKES A SMALL AND SAFE EXPLOSION.
THEY'RE ABOUT TO DETONATE IT...
THEY DETONATED IT ALL RIGHT...


...BUT IT WASN'T SMALL OR SAFE.
BA
LAM
LATER, THEY'D SUSPECT SOMEONE HAD DELIBERATELY BOOBYTRAPPED THE SQUIB...
CUT!
SOMEBODY GET THE DOCTOR! WALT'S HURT!
THEY CARRIED WALT INTO HIS DRESSING ROOM TRAILER...
GET THAT TAPE RECORDER AND SCRIPTS OFF THERE. I'LL PUT HIM DOWN.
EASY NOW...
WE SENT FOR THE DOC.
I'LL BE OKAY, JERRY. ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...
DON'T LOOK SO PALE, MR. BUCHANAN. WALT'S OKAY.
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M PALE. I JUST GOT A CALL...
THE POLICE JUST ARRESTED DUNCAN BARNES FOR THE MURDER OF HENRY CROFT.
13

EVERYONE WAS WORRIED. EVERYONE BUT DUNCAN...
YOU MUST HAVE PICKED UP THE GUN! YOUR PRINTS WERE ALL OVER THE MURDER WEAPON--!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, SERGEANT. I NEVER TOUCHED IT.
YOUR FRIEND CAN'T EVEN LIE PROPERLY. HE SWEARS HE NEVER TOUCHED THE GUN!
IF HE SAYS HE DIDN'T, HE DIDN'T.
HAVE YOU CHECKED OTHER PEOPLE WHO WANTED CROFT DEAD?
UH-HUH. NONE OF 'EM WERE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF THE OFFICE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
THAT'S RIGHT. MOST OF THEM WERE ON THE SET WITH ME.
I'VE GOT TO TALK WITH DUNCAN...
IT WAS AMAZING. DUNCAN STILL WASN'T WORRIED!
BUT YOU'RE CHARGED WITH FIRST DEGREE MURDER!
TRUE. BUT I KNOW I DIDN'T DO IT.
IF I'D KILLED HIM, I'D BE WORRIED. BUT I DIDN'T.
AND EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FINE. YOU'LL SEE.
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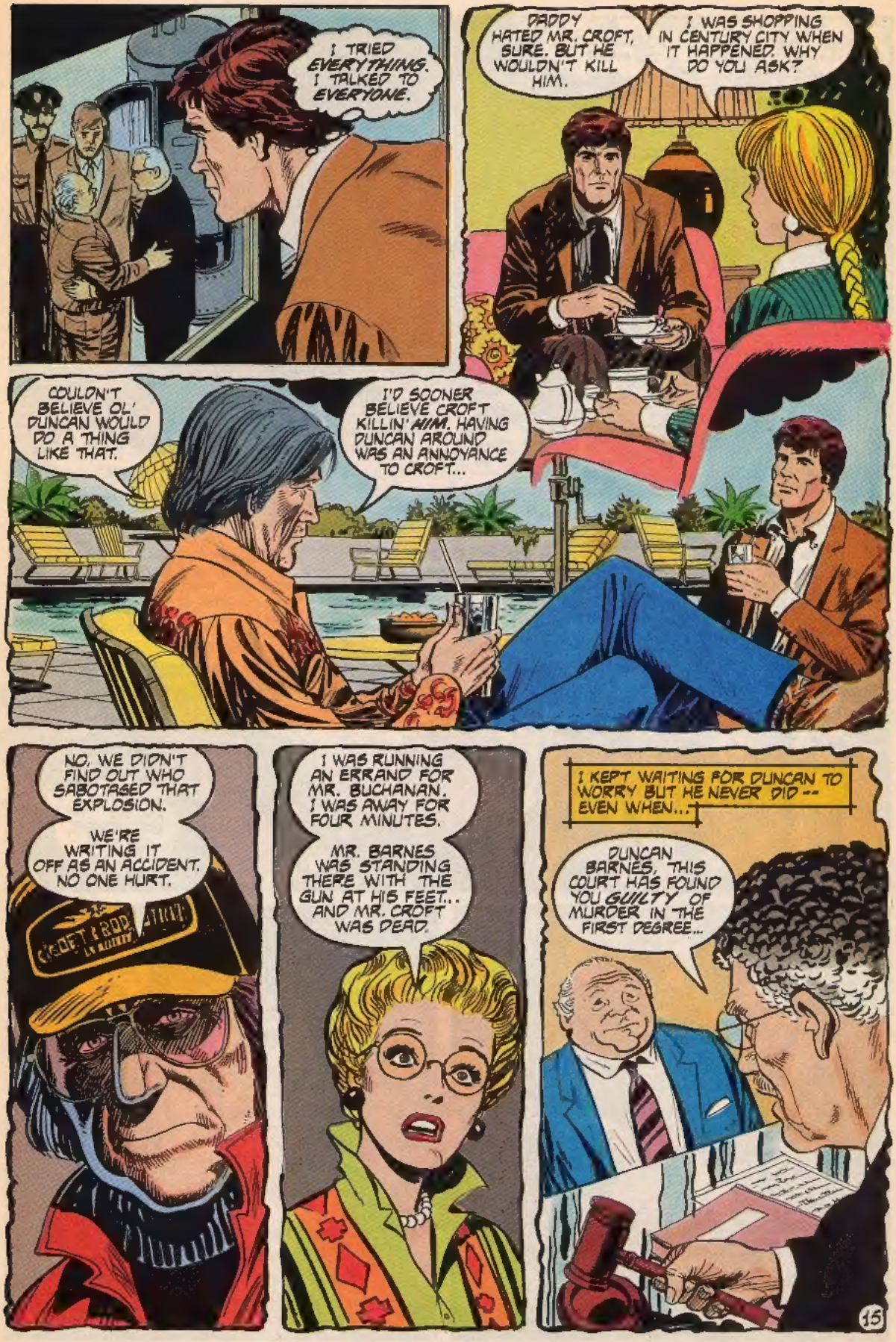
14


I TRIED EVERYTHING. I TALKED TO EVERYONE.
DADDY HATED MR. CROFT, SURE. BUT HE WOULDN'T KILL HIM.
I WAS SHOPPING IN CENTURY CITY WHEN IT HAPPENED. WHY DO YOU ASK?
COULDN'T BELIEVE OL' DUNCAN WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT.
I'D SOONER BELIEVE CROFT KILLIN' HIM. HAVING DUNCAN AROUND WAS AN ANNOYANCE TO CROFT...
NO, WE DIDN'T FIND OUT WHO SABOTAGED THAT EXPLOSION.
WE'RE WRITING IT OFF AS AN ACCIDENT. NO ONE HURT.
I WAS RUNNING AN ERRAND FOR MR. BUCHANAN. I WAS AWAY FOR FOUR MINUTES.
MR. BARNES WAS STANDING THERE WITH THE GUN AT HIS FEET... AND MR. CROFT WAS DEAD.
I KEPT WAITING FOR DUNCAN TO WORRY BUT HE NEVER DID -- EVEN WHEN...
DUNCAN BARNES, THIS COURT HAS FOUND YOU GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE...
15

HE KEPT SAYING, "EVERYTHING HAS A HAPPY ENDING." WELL, HIS IS ABOUT TWO MINUTES AWAY...
...AND DOESN'T LOOK SO HAPPY.
FACE IT, JAY. IT'S OVER. HIS PRINTS ON THE GUN...MOTIVE... OPPORTUNITY...
STOP THE EXECUTION! CALL THE GOVERNOR OR WHATEVER! BUT DUNCAN IS INNOCENT!
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY...
YOU STOP THIS OR, I SWEAR, I'LL PROVE HE'S INNOCENT AND SEE THAT EVERY NEWSPAPER IN THE STATE KNOWS YOU DIDN'T STOP HIS EXECUTION!
I'LL-- I'LL GET THE GOVERNOR ON THE PHONE!
I CAN PROVE WHO KILLED HENRY CROFT!
--AND SO CAN YOU!

RULES

Okay: You have just read the tale entitled *"Who Offed Henry Croft?"*—which raises the interesting question: "Who offed Henry Croft?"

Now comes the contest part.

Many people *could have* done it, but in our tale, as crafted by Mark Evanier and Dan Spiegle, there is one correct answer and your mission, should you decide to accept, is to determine—**WHODUNNIT?** Mark and Dan have already written and illustrated the final chapter of this tale, featuring the solution to the mystery, and it is in a sealed package in the custody of the judges. In order to win, you must figure out who, according to Evanier and Spiegle, is the murderer. You will also have to figure out a few additional pieces of the puzzle. No one ever said this was going to be easy.

Here are this issue's questions that must be answered to win the prize...

1. Who fired the gun that killed Henry Croft? (Write this name on the outside of the envelope.)
2. Explain how it was done.
3. Explain how Duncan Barnes was framed.
4. What other crime was committed by someone in the story?
5. Who committed this crime?
6. What is the name and street address of the store where you bought your copy of *Whodunnit?* We request the correct answer to this question in order to award a cash prize to the store which sold the winner's copy.

RULES:

To enter, use a piece of 8½"×11" paper. Make sure your name and address are clearly printed at the top of each page of your entry. Print or type your answers to the six questions and mail your entry to:

WHODUNNIT?
c/o The Comics Buyer's Guide
700 East State Street
Iola, Wisconsin 54990

On the outside of the envelope in the lower left-hand area, write once again your answer to Question #1.

No envelopes will be opened until July 1, 1987. Envelopes will be opened by and entries judged by the staff of **The Comics Buyer's Guide.** The winner will be the entry with the earliest postmark that answers all five mystery questions correctly as determined by our judges and as revealed in the final chapter by Evanier and Spiegle, to be published in **WHODUNNIT?** #4, and must have supplied a legible answer to Question #6 as well. If more than one winning entry with the same postmark is received, a random draw will be held and a winner selected from those who answered all of the questions correctly. In such a draw, no individual may be represented by more than one entry.

The winner, as determined by our judges, will receive a briefcase stuffed with one thousand dollars in cash, courtesy of **Eclipse Comics.** The store at which the winner bought his or her copy of **WHODUNNIT?** will win two hundred dollars cash from **Eclipse Comics.**

In the event that no entry satisfies the judges' criteria and is deemed correct, the prize money will be awarded to the entrant who, in the opinion of the judges, came closest to answering the five mystery questions. If more than one such entry satisfies the judges criteria for correctness, a random draw will be held as described above.

All entries must be received by the closing date and must be addressed as above. We are not responsible for illegible postmarks or entries lost or delayed in the mail. All entries must be sent by standard First Class U.S. Mail. No hand-delivery, Express Mail, Special Delivery or other means of delivery will be accepted. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any entry for reasons of illegibility or suspected cheating. You may enter as many times as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately. All entries become the property of **Eclipse Comics,** and may be used for publicity purposes. This competition is open to anyone, except where prohibited by law and excepting employees of **Eclipse Comics,** the **Comics Buyer's Guide,** their suppliers, printers and engravers, retailers and wholesalers, the judging committee, their relatives, or others affiliated with those operating the competition. Decision of the judges will be considered final. All federal, state and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Contest void where prohibited.

The winner will be announced in **WHODUNNIT?** #4, scheduled to go on sale in August of 1987. The winner grants **Eclipse Comics** the right to use his or her name and likeness in that issue and publicity materials.